

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing an information portal in a contract manufacturing  
2 framework comprising the steps of:
- 3 (a) providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures,  
4 wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a  
5 particular service provider, and wherein the database further includes a  
6 plurality of links to information;
- 7 (b) identifying a particular service provider data structure based on request data  
8 from a user;
- 9 (c) identifying a particular link based on the request data;
- 10 (d) sending the user the identified service provider data structure and the  
11 identified link; and
- 12 (e) allowing the user to obtain additional information utilizing the identified  
13 link.
- 1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service provider data structures  
2 include data concerning contract service providers.
- 1 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the service provider data structures  
2 further include data concerning legal services.
- 1 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identified link is capable of  
2 being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.
- 1 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identified link is capable of  
2 being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country licensing.
- 1 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a  
2 network.

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- 1 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
- 1 8. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for  
2 providing an information portal in a contract manufacturing framework  
3 comprising:  
4 (a) a code segment for providing a database including a plurality of service  
5 provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure  
6 includes a description of a particular service provider, and wherein the  
7 database further includes a plurality of links to information;  
8 (b) a code segment for identifying a particular service provider data structure  
9 based on request data from a user;  
10 (c) a code segment for identifying a particular link based on the request data;  
11 (d) a code segment for sending the user the identified service provider data  
12 structure and the identified link; and  
13 (e) a code segment for allowing the user to obtain additional information  
14 utilizing the identified link.
- 1 9. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the service provider data  
2 structures include data concerning contract service providers.
- 1 10. A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the service provider data  
2 structures further include data concerning legal services.
- 1 11. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identified link is  
2 capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.
- 1 12. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identified link is  
2 capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country  
3 licensing.

- 1 13. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the database is accessed  
2 utilizing a network.
- 1 14. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the network is the  
2 Internet.
- 1 15. A system for providing an information portal in a contract manufacturing  
2 framework comprising:  
3 (a) logic for providing a database including a plurality of service provider data  
4 structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description  
5 of a particular service provider, and wherein the database further includes a  
6 plurality of links to information;  
7 (b) logic for identifying a particular service provider data structure based on  
8 request data from a user;  
9 (c) logic for identifying a particular link based on the request data;  
10 (d) logic for sending the user the identified service provider data structure and  
11 the identified link; and  
12 (e) logic for allowing the user to obtain additional information utilizing the  
13 identified link.
- 1 16. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the service provider data structures  
2 include data concerning contract service providers.
- 1 17. A system as recited in claim 16, wherein the service provider data structures  
2 further include data concerning legal services.
- 1 18. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the identified link is capable of  
2 being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.
- 1 19. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the identified link is capable of  
2 being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country licensing.

- 1 20. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a  
2 network.
- 1 21. A system as recited in claim 15, wherein the network is the Internet.

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